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A2

(54) Title: ENABLING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN USERS SURFING THE SAME WEB PAGE

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(57) Abstract: A web page is YACHNEE™ enabled by providing an icon on the page which allows actuation upon being clicked. The user is then able to design a character to represent him on the screen. He also sees characters on screen representing other users, which characters have been designed by the users. A user may move his character all over the screen by dragging it with his mouse and may rotate it towards or away from other characters. The characters may speak to each other, either through a voice communication or typing, in which case the text appears in a bubble (cartoon fashion). A user may change the appearance of a character to reflect an emotion (e.g. anger) and he may invite other characters to a private chat. When a user leaves the web page, the corresponding character disappears from all other users' screens. Communication among users viewing the same web page is facilitated without the need for any program or plug-in other than what is standard in a web browser. Additionally, such features as the automatic generation and de-activation of chat-rooms are possible, which in previous applications are pre-defined and independent of the presence of users.